17. The method of claim 15 wherein the activity of ErcoA3 is reduced in said cancer cells by contacting the cells with anti-ERCoA antibody under conditions which permit uptake of said antibody

18. A method of detecting cancerous cells that are tamoxifien resistant , comprising :

a) contacting a test sample which comprises cancerous cells or a protein extract therefrom with anti-ERCoA3 antibody under conditions wherein binding of said antibody to ERCoA3 protein occurs; and

b) assaying for a complex between the antibody and a protein in the test sample, wherein an increase in the level of the antigen-antibody complex in the test sample, as compared to the level of the antigen-antibody complex in a control sample, indicates that the test sample contains or was derived from tamoxifen resistant cancerous cells.

19. A method of detecting cancerous cells that are tamoxifien resistant, comprising:

assaying for ERCoA3 transcript in a test sample which comprises cancer cells or an RNA extract of said cells, wherein a increase in the level of said ErcoA3 transcript in said test sample, as compared to the level of said ERCoA3 in a corresponding control sample, indicates that the test sample contains or was derived from tamoxifen resistant cancer cells.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said sample is assayed by contacting said sample with a polynucleotide which is complementary to a contiguous sequence in SEQ ID NO.1 under stringent hybridization conditions.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein said sample is assayed by a reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction which employs a primer derived from SEQ ID NO. 1.

22. A method for treating osteoporosis in a subject comprising:

increasing the levels of ERCoA in the estrogen-responsive cells of the subject.

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